

91st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire

Christ Church Cathedral, Eau Claire, Wisconsin - Host Congregation

November 9th, 2019

Saturday, November 9

Registration and Check-in – Christ Church Cathedral

8:00-9:00 a.m., Registration Convenes at Christ Church Cathedral.

9:01 a.m. Plenary Session, Convention Convenes at Christ Church Cathedral's Great Hall

1. Call to Order in Christ Church Cathedral's Great Hall

Convention called to order by The Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby, Dispatch of Business. The Rt. Rev. William Jay Lambert, 6th Bishop of the Diocese of Eau Claire, having offered an opening prayer. and presented the Rev. William Power with a Bible in recognition of his Diaconal Ordination less than a week before.

2. Election of Secretary

MOTION by The Very Rev. Scott Kirby to nominate The Rev. Canon Aaron Zook as Secretary of the Convention. **Second. Carried by acclamation without dissent. So moved.**

3. Appointment of Assistant Secretary

The Secretary appointed Rev. Guy Usher as Assistant Secretary.

4. Credentials Committee Report: Ms. Mary Gadwill, CC Cathedral. 38 clergy are eligible to vote, 23 present. Laity: 49 deputies are allowed and eligible to vote, there are 41 deputies present. A majority of laity and clergy are present. In a Vote by Orders: Clergy needs a vote of 12 or greater, Laity: 21 or greater. Further, 43 votes denotes a super-majority.

Roll Call:

Clergy Present at Call to Order: Rev. Peter Augustine, Rev. Dave Bauer, Rev. Steven Burns, Rev. Charles Carter, Rev. Kathleen Charles, Rev. William Radant, Very Rev. Scott Kirby, Rev. Catherine Kuschel, Rev. Philip Morgan, Rev. Bill Power, Rev. Tony Ring, Rev. Robert Rosolowski, Rev. Steve Russell, Rev. Tanya Scheff, Rev. Canon George Stamm, Rev. Guy Usher, Rev. Canon Aaron Zook, Rev. James Lorenze, Ven. Jo Glasser, Rev. Ken Van Es, Rev. Marlene Hogue, Rev. Mary Rezin, Rev. Rose Ruthy.

Bishops Present: The Rt. Rev. William Jay Lambert.

Clergy Present with No Vote: The Rt. Rev. Patrick Augustine, Rev. Kerri Parker.

Laity Present: Ron Davis, Jeanette Davis, Nicole Barkley, Erika Gullerud, Bonita Aude, Kathie Kurshinsky, Phil Grece, Lynda Grece, Evelyn Usher, Mathew Chromey, Debra Lorenze, Ellen Allison, Tom Dew, Rick Herdrich, Gretchen Herdrich, Martin Frank, Kathy Fredrickson, Elizabeth Dewitt, Tim Donahue, Lee Donahue, Carla Corbin, Lora Stefanski, Roger Grant, Nancy Osgood, Ann Quigley, Connie Usiak, Martha Brandley, James Rusch, Merrie Jo Chamberlain, Deb Mayenschein, Deb Marrier, Eileen Yeakley, Suzanne Funck, Edie McDougal, Jim Glasser, Robin Neilson, Dan Durand, Jean Neste, Ron Neste, Ben Anderson, Petra Anderson, Darrel Sanders, Brenda Rezin.

5. Welcome by Christ Church Cathedral:

The Rev. Benjamin Thomas, welcomed Convention to Eau Claire. The parish is honored to host Convention and is thankful for the opportunity to serve the clergy, deputies and guests of the Diocese of Eau Claire.

6. Secondary Appointments:

- a. Dispatch of Business: The Rt. Rev. William Jay Lambert **Proposed the Very Rev. Scott Kirby to Convention. Response: Yes.**
- b. Parliamentarian: The Rt. Rev. William Jay Lambert **Proposed Mr. Jim Pelish to Convention. Response: Yes.**
- c. Council of Advice: The Rt. Rev. William Jay Lambert **Proposed Mr. Jim Pelish and the President of the Standing Committee and the Vice President of the Executive Council. Response: Yes**

7. Rules of Order, Acceptance of Agenda:

The Very Rev. Scott Kirby presented the Rules of Order as well as the convention Agenda.

Mr. Matt Chromey MOVED to accept the Rules of Order. Rev. Peter Augustine Second. Unanimous “Yes” voice vote. So moved.

Rev. George Stamm MOVED to accept the Agenda. Ms. Erika Gullerud Second. Unanimous “Yes” voice vote. So moved.

8. Minutes of the 90th Diocesan Convention:

The Very Rev. Scott Kirby Presented the Minutes of the 90th Diocesan Convention.

Mr. Martin Frank MOVED to accept the Minutes as presented. Mr. Jim Glasser Second. Unanimous “Yes” voice vote. So moved.

9. Elections for Diocesan Leadership Positions:

For all positions that had only one nominee, Convention voted in favor of election for each by Voice Vote. All individuals who ran unopposed were unanimously elected.

Rev. George Stamm MOVED to elect all nominees for unopposed election. Mr. Jim Glasser Second. Unanimous “Yes” voice vote. So moved.

The Very Rev. Scott Kirby announced the results of the elections for Diocesan Leadership Positions as follows:

Uncontested Elections:

Standing Committee:

Clergy: Chuck Carter+

Laity: Ms. Joan Smalstig

Executive Council:

Clergy: Kathy Charles+

Laity: Mr. Tim Donahue

Ms. Jenö Love

Ms. Lynda Grece (two year term)

COM:

Clergy: Kathy Charles+

Laity: Ms. Nancy Firth

Secretary:

Aaron Zook+

Treasurer:

Bob Weathers

Trustees:

Dn. Ken Van Es

Ms. Sue Misun

Ecclesiastical Disciplinary Board:

Clergy: Scott Kirby+

Ellie Michaud+

Laity: Ron Hall

General Convention:

Clergy: Kathy Charles+

Dn. Marlene Hogue

Dn. Jim Lorenze
Guy Usher+
Alternate Clergy: Tanya Scheff+

Laity: Mr. Nick Charles
Ms. Deb Lorenze
Mr. Tim Donahue
Ms. Lynda Grece

***9:51 a.m.: Convention Breaks for Refreshment**, at which time, two guest speakers made presentations to Convention.

The first speaker, **The Rev. Kerri Parker**, from the Wisconsin Council of Churches spoke to Convention about the importance of the Council and of the role of “Holy Imagination” in our common ecumenical ministries, both locally and state-wide.

The second speaker, **The Rt. Rev. Patrick Augustine**, shared his thankfulness for the support of the people of the Diocese of Eau Claire for his many years of ministry in LA Crosse as well as their support of his new ministry in the diocese of Bor, in South Sudan. He shared his plans for ministry in the coming year and asked for the continued support of the people of the Diocese of Eau Claire.

***10:22 a.m.: Convention Reconvenes.**

10. Trustees of the Diocese of Eau Claire:

Presentation of 2019 Financial Reports and 2020 Budget- Bob Weathers presented the report. All clergy and deputies received this report and the accompanying Budget Proposal in Advance. The Budget for 2020 is based on apportionment asking of 10%. Mr. Weathers pointed particularly to the budgetary implications of late Parochial Reports and the importance of making Apportionment payments in a timely manner. He noted a particular emphasis in the Budget for funding youth activities.

Ms. Erika Gullerud MOVED ACCEPTANCE of the 2020 Budget. Ms. Evelyn Usher Second. Unanimous “Yes” voice vote. So moved.

11. Presentation of Resolutions:

The Very Rev'd H. Scott Kirby, on behalf of the Standing Committee, presented **Resolution 2019-1**

Be it Resolved that the 91st Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire create Canon 10, Section 5 to read:

The Offices of Secretary and Treasurer shall be exempt from any Diocesan Canon that presents term limits, or otherwise inhibits the duration of their service.

Rev. George Stamm MOVED ACCEPTANCE of Resolution 2019-1. Rev. Kathy Charles Second. Unanimous “Yes” voice vote. So moved.

Resolution 2019-2:

Be it Resolved that the 91st Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire repeal and recreate Article IX, Section 3 to read:

Section 3. The four Trustees thus elected together with the Bishop, Chancellor, and Treasurer shall serve as the seven Board of Directors of said Corporation but in case of a tie vote the chancellor's vote shall not be counted. The Bishop shall serve as President ex officio of the Corporation and a Secretary shall be elected from among the four elected Trustees by said Trustees. Four members present, two of whom shall be elected members, shall constitute a quorum for transacting all business.

Mr. Tim Donahue MOVED ACCEPTANCE of Resolution 2019-2. Re. Kathy Charles Second. Unanimous "Yes" voice vote. So moved.

Resolution 2019-3:

Be it Resolved that the 91st Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire does authorize and empower the Bishop of Eau Claire and the Strategic Planning Committee to take whatever measures possible and necessary to implement the Diocese of Eau Claire's Episcopal Transition as expressed by the resolutions of the 91st Convention. Be it further Resolved that any resolutions passed at this 91st Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire pertaining to the Episcopal Transition must pass by a Super Majority of 2/3 of eligible and present voters.

Rev. George Stamm MOVED ACCEPTANCE of Resolution 2019-3. Ms. Lee Donahue Second. Unanimous "Yes" voice vote. So moved.

Resolution 2019-4:

Be it Resolved that the 91st Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire does call on The Domestic and Foreign Mission Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America to use its considerable influence to promote the amendment of current State, Federal, and Military pension policies as they pertain to Surviving Spouse Benefits to the end that such benefits be made fully available to Surviving Spouses regardless of subsequent marriage in recognition of eternal nature of the benefits of marriage.

Rev. George Stamm MOVED ACCEPTANCE of Resolution 2019-4. Mr. Tim Donahue. Second. Unanimous "Yes" voice vote. So moved.

12. Bishop Lambert's Address:

The Bishop's Address was disseminated after which Bp. Lambert read the address to the Convention, which was met with a loud ovation. Convention broke into small groups to discuss the content and message of the Address. The floor was opened for comments and responses to the questions raised within Bishop Lambert's Address. Bp. Lambert asked individuals to stand and share their thoughts on the future of the Diocese of Eau Claire, especially as it pertains to the community in which they reside. He responded to specific comments and questions from delegates and visitors.

13. Advance Reports by Title:

The Very Rev'd H. Scott Kirby, on behalf of the various committees, presented Advance Reports for the Standing Committee, Camp Horstick, Diocese of Harare, Family Retreat, and the Buffington Board of Governors.

**Rev. Marlene Hogue MOVED ACCEPTANCE of the Advance Reports.
Second. Unanimous "Yes" voice vote. So moved.**

Transition Committee Report:

The Venerable Jo Glasser presented the work and findings of the Transition Committee, including the results of numerous Listening Sessions throughout the Diocese. She also presented an analysis of the potential models for Episcopal Oversight following Bp. Lambert's retirement in November of 2020. Following Archdeacon Glasser's presentation, several members of the Transition Committee presented the following Models for the consideration of Convention:

Model One: remain independent with part-time bishop diocesan.

Model Two: seek a sharing relationship with another diocese for episcopal and other select functions while maintaining independent diocese status.

Model Three: seek a sharing relationship with another diocese for episcopal and other select functions with the anticipation of closer organizational affiliation in the future.

Model Four: continue the exploration process with extended discussion in and between congregations in the diocese.

The floor of Convention was opened for individuals to share their thoughts and concerns about the various models. After considerable discussion, Convention broke into table and small group discussion. Convention reconvened and a vote was called and delegates and clergy were asked to cast a vote for any one of the Models presented. A committee exited the Great Hall to tabulate the votes as follows:

Model One: Twenty-six (26) votes.

Model Two: Thirty-four (34) votes.

Model Three: Eleven (11) votes.

Model Four: Seventeen (17) votes.

As a super-majority was not achieved and the floor was opened again for individuals to share their thoughts and concerns about the various models. After lengthy discussion from several individuals, Convention broke into table and small group discussion. Convention reconvened and a vote was again called and delegates and clergy were asked to cast a vote for either of the two highest vote

receiving Models presented (Model One and Model Two.) A committee exited the Great Hall to tabulate the votes as follows:

Model One: Thirty (30) votes.

Model Two: Thirty-six (36) votes.

As a super-majority was not achieved and the floor was opened again for individuals to share their thoughts and concerns about the various models. After lengthy discussion from several individuals, Convention broke into table and small group discussion. Convention reconvened and a vote was again called and delegates and clergy were asked to cast a vote for either of the two highest vote receiving Models presented (Model One and Model Two.) A committee exited the Great Hall to tabulate the votes as follows:

Model One: Twenty-four (24) votes.

Model Two: Thirty-two (32) votes.

As a super-majority was not achieved and the floor was opened again for individuals to share their thoughts and concerns about the various models. After lengthy discussion from several individuals, Bp. Lambert, the Council of Advice, and Dispatch of Business conferred and asked for a motion from the floor to call a voice vote for an amended version of Model Four, calling on the Strategic Planning Committee to work with the Transition Committee and provide more concrete options for consideration by Convention.

Rev. George Stamm MOVED for a voice vote on the clarified Model Four. Second. "Yes" voice vote. So moved.

14. 2019 Clergy Changes

- The **Reverend Arthur Hancock** transferred his Letters Dimissory from the Diocese of Eau Claire to the Diocese of Minnesota on **November 30th, 2018**.
- Mr. **Michael Patrick Gumulaskas** was ordained as a Deacon at Christ Church Cathedral, Eau Claire on Friday, **December 21st, 2018**.
- The **Reverend Patrick Augustine** retired from Christ Church, La Crosse and transferred from the Diocese of Eau Claire to the Diocese of Bor, Province of South Sudan on **June 28th, 2019**.
- The **Very Reverend Michael Greene** transferred his Letters Dimissory from the Diocese of Eau Claire to the Diocese of New Hampshire on **June 28th, 2019**.

- The **Reverend Robert Hoekstra** transferred his Letters Dimissory from the Diocese of Eau Claire to the Diocese of North Dakota on **June 28th, 2019**.
- The **Reverend Christian Senyoni** transferred his Letters Dimissory from the Diocese of Eau Claire to the Diocese of West Tennessee on **June 28th, 2019**.
- The **Reverend Phillip Morgan** transferred his Letters Dimissory from the Diocese of Virginia to the Diocese of Eau Claire on Wednesday, **October 9th, 2019**.
- The **Reverend Benjamin Thomas** was licensed to Officiate in the Diocese of Eau Claire, effective **August 1st, 2019**.
- The **Reverend Charles Grainger** was licensed to Officiate in the Diocese of Eau Claire, effective **August 1st, 2019**.
- Mr. **William J. Power** was ordained as a Deacon at St. John's, Sparta on Saturday, **November 2nd, 2019**.

15. Bishop's Appointments

Commission on Ministry

The Reverend Deacon Jo Glasser

Dr. Paul Chase

Ms. Mary Ellen Filkins

Ms. Evelyn Usher

Bishop's Council of Advice

President of the Standing Committee

Vice-President of the Executive Council

Camps and Conferences

The Reverend Marlene Hogue

Mr. William Broughton

Chancellor

Mr. James Pelish

Constitutions and Canons/Resolutions

Bishop (ex officio)

Chancellor (ex officio)

The Reverend Guy Usher

The Reverend Canon Aaron Zook

Mr. Bill Smith

Ecumenical Officer

The Reverend Steven Burns

Episcopal Relief and Development

Ms. Alice Brown

Examining Chaplains

Bishop

The Reverend Canon Bruce Gardner

The Reverend Canon Aaron Zook

The Very Reverend Scott Kirby

Liturgy and Worship

The Reverend Canon Bruce Gardner

The Very Reverend Scott Kirby

The Reverend Canon Aaron Zook

Nominating Committee

President of the Standing Committee

Vice-President of the Executive Council

Canon to the Ordinary

United Thank Offering (UTO)

Ms. Anita Olds

Wisconsin Council of Churches

Bishop

16. Resolutions of Courtesy

Presented by The Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby

RESOLUTIONS of COURTESY

November 9, 2019

Be it resolved, that the 91st Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire extend our appreciation to the the Rev'd Dr. Ben Thomas, Deb Lorenze, Michael Carlson, Christa Cates and the numerous volunteers and clergy of Christ Church Cathedral, Eau Claire, Wisconsin whose singular efforts and diligence provided for the business and worship of this Convention;

Be it further resolved, that this 91st Convention recognize the Reverend Canon Aaron Zook, and Mr. Robert Weathers whose time and efforts provided the detailed materials dispersed to the delegates of this Convention;

Be it further resolved, that this 91st Convention express our grateful thanks to all those who have served on The Transition Committee, other diocesan committees and commissions, and the many others who have served the diocese in this past year.

Be it further resolved, that this 91st Convention send our greetings and best wishes to the Rt. Reverend William Wantland, the Rt. Reverend Keith and Mrs. Suzie Whitmore, the Rt. Reverend Edwin and Mrs. Ira Leidel, and to all the retired clergy, spouses, and widows of clergy who have served this diocese, but were unable to attend.

Be it further resolved, that this 91st Convention send greetings to the Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop, the Right Reverend Chad Gandiya, and the Reverend Gay Jennings, President of the House of Deputies;

Be it further resolved, that this 91st Convention express our thanks to the Rev's Kerri Parker and the Rt. Rev'd Patrick Augustine for their presence at this convention;

Be it further resolved, that this 91st Convention send greetings to the bishops and people of the Dioceses of Fond du Lac and Milwaukee wishing them God's richest blessings in this coming year;

And be it further resolved, that the Bishop Lambert's Pastoral Address to this 91st Convention be published or read in all congregations of the Diocese of Eau Claire.

Respectfully Submitted by,
The Very Reverend H. Scott Kirby
Dispatch of Business for the 91st Convention of the
Diocese of Eau Claire
Dean Emeritus, Christ Church Cathedral

**Rev. Marlene Hogue MOVED ACCEPTANCE of the Resolutions of
Courtesy. Mr. Tim Donahue Second. Unanimous "Yes" voice vote. So moved.**

20. Invitation to 2019 Convention

2020 Convention invitation extended by The Rev. Guy Usher, Rector of St. Paul's, Hudson. Date to be determined. 2020 invitation was not yet extended.
Invitation accepted.

3:37 p.m. Rt. Rev. Jay Lambert announced the completion of Convention business and asked for a motion to adjourn the 91st Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire.

Rev. George Stamm MOVED to close Convention. Second. Voice Vote. Unanimous. So Moved.

Bishop Lambert led the Doxology and dismissed the 91st Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Canon Aaron Zook
Secretary of the Diocese of Eau Claire